



Tennessee Board of Social Worker Licensure Meeting

Friday, November 22, 2024

MINUTES

The Board meeting of the Tennessee Board of Social Worker Licensure was called to order at 9:05 a.m. in the Iris Room, Ground Floor, Metro Center Complex, 665 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, Tennessee 37243 by Ann-Marie Buchanan on Friday, November 22, 2024.

Board members present:	Ann-Marie Buchanan, LMSW Kenya Anderson, LMSW Caitlin Wright, LAPSW Angela DeLoach, LBSW Jennifer Williams, LAPSW Robert Zylstra, LCSW Tara Watson, LCSW
Board member(s) absent:	Ashley Childers, LCSW, Board President Colleen Howe, Citizen Member Crystal Parker, LAPSW
Staff present:	Candyce Wilson, Board Director Katherine Trawick, JD, General Counsel Courtney Reimers, Board Administrator

CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

Ms. Katherine Trawick, Board Attorney, reviewed the Boards conflict of interest policy.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The approval of minutes were tabled until the next meeting.

CONDUCT NEW BUSINESS

Ratification of New Licensees

The Board reviewed the newly licensed and reinstated licensees since the last Board meeting. Ms. Williams motioned to ratify all names on the list. Mr. Zylstra seconded the motion and it passed.

Ratification of Rescinded Temporary Authorization

The board reviewed the rescinded temporary authorization for applicant Kayla Aloisi. Ms. Watson motioned to ratify the decision. Ms. Deloach seconded the motion and it passed.

REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

Ms. Jasmine Thompson presented the current complaints report for the Board.

Ms. Buchanan questioned if the letter of concern goes on public review. Ms. Trawick addressed the confidential nature of these letters.

Mr. Zylstra questioned what unprofessional conduct might include. Ms. Trawick and Ms. Elyse Nida-Buck addressed that these might be boundary violations, impairment, etc.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Emily Godwin, Fiscal Director presented the financial report to the Board. Ms. Buchanan questioned if the modernization of LARS would be allocated to all boards. Ms. Godwin confirmed all boards will contribute to the modernization.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REPORT

Candyce Wilson, Board Director read the statistics of the licensing report and gave the following update:

Effective immediately, walk-ins are no longer allowed. The social work board is operating by appointment only. Appointments can be made by emailing unit1hrb.health@tn.gov. The social work administrator will reply to the request and schedule a time to meet with the applicant.

- a. Ms. Wright questioned if applicants could drop off documentation to the cash office without an appointment. Ms. Wilson confirmed applicants may visit the cash office without an appointment, but any in person communication needed with an administrator must be by appointment.
- b. Ms. Wright questioned if our office was seeing a trend of applications volume going up, down or remaining stable. Ms. Wilson confirmed, in general we are seeing an uptick every year but will provide statistical data at the next Board meeting.

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT

Katherine Trawick, Board Attorney, gave the report from the Office of General Counsel which included the following updates:

1. As of November 20th, 2024, there were fourteen complaints open against thirteen of the Board's licensees.
2. The disciplinary coordinators are monitoring the total number of Social Workers being monitored.
3. There are nineteen of these Boards licensees currently being monitored.
 - a. The total number on reprimand is 2 with terms.
 - b. The total number on probation is 6 with terms.
 - c. The total number on suspension is 5 with terms.

- d. The total number with a revoked or surrendered license is 1.
- e. The total number of voluntarily retired is 5.

Disciplinary Order(s)

Consent Order(s)

Sandra Presgrove, LCSW (license #5085) Elyse Nida-Buck presented the signed consent order for Ms. Presgrove. Ms. Watson motioned to accept the order. Mr. Zylstra seconded the motion and it passed.

CONDUCT NEW BUSINESS

Retrospective Rule Revision

Katherine Trawick, Board Attorney, provided an update on the changes regarding retrospective rule revision. This update included the following:

1. Add the definitions of Synchronous and Asynchronous. The Board approved the definitions.
2. The scope of practice currently mirrors the information in the statute. The update will now summarize the information and refer to the statute for the complete definition. TCA 63-23-102(a), 63-23-103(a), 63-23-104(a), 63-23-105(a)
3. Rule 1365-01-.05 Pursuant to T.C.A. § 63-1-161(b) the Board shall waive all initial licensure fees for low-income persons.
4. Rule 1365-01-.08 The clinical hours policy has been added to the rules as approved in 2023.
5. Rule 1365-01-.09 (7) Synchronous virtual learning policy added to be reflected in the rule.
6. Rule 1365-01-.09(11) Language added to reflect that the suicide prevention requirement cannot be waived.
7. Rule 1365-01-.10(4) Release of records language was updated.
8. Rule 1365-01-.11(1) Language updated to reflect formal disciplinary action.
9. Rule 1365-01-.14 Language updated to remove expungement information.
10. Title 33 Rule 1365-01-.17 Duty to Warn language added.
11. Rules Repealed: 1365-01-.17, 1365-01-.18, 1365-01-.19, 1365-01-.20, 1365-01-.21, 1365-01-.22.

Ms. Watson motioned to approve; Ms. Anderson seconded. Ms. Wilson initiated a roll call vote, and the motion passed.

CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS

Correspondence

Rachel Gibson- Licensed Clinical Social Worker requesting a CE waiver due to living abroad with her spouse who is employed by the U.S. Embassy through the end of 2026. The Board reviewed the request without the presence of the licensee due to the time difference. Ms. Buchanan offered an extension for 2 months and those can be asynchronous. Ms. Anderson motioned to waive the 5.25 CEUs for the 2022-2023 renewal period. Ms. Buchanan motioned that the licensee be given a 2-month extension for the 5.25 CEUs for the 2022-2023 renewal period, allowed to be done Asynchronously, and the motion passed. Ms. Wright motioned that the request for CEU waiver for the 2024-2025 renewal period be denied, with the exception that all 30 CEUs be completed Asynchronously. Ms. Anderson seconded and the motion passed.

Maura Hanley- Licensed Master Social Worker requesting if she can receive clinical supervision for her LCSW when her license is moved to on probation. The Board authorized the administrative staff to send a letter to the licensee confirming that hours may be obtained while on probation.

Disciplinary Order(s)

Consent Order(s)

Gary Gallon, LCSW (license #6177) – Ms. Trawick presented the signed consent order for Mr. Gallon. Mr. Zylstra motioned to accept the order. Ms. Wright seconded the motion and it passed.

CONDUCT NEW BUSINESS

Indirect/Direct Clinical Experience Definition

Tara Watson presented proposed definition change for Indirect and Direct clinical experience as well as a proposed rule change to Rule 1365-01-04. Ms. Watson indicated she has been working on an FAQ for clinical supervision hours. This information will be discussed more in upcoming 2025 meetings.

Upcoming Conference Requests

2025 ASWB Education Meeting: The Board discussed moving upcoming meetings to a different day of the week to accommodate the upcoming conference. Mr. Zylstra motioned to send 2 board member delegates, one attorney and one staff member. Ms. Watson seconded, and the motion passed.

New member Board member training is offered on the ASWB website.

Ms. Buchanan announced that Kenya Anderson has been elected as the president elect for the ASWB Board.

Tara Watson attended the inaugural meeting in September 2024 for the Social Work Compact. Ms. Watson requested that the Board approve expenditure and attendance at the next Social Work Compact conference in Lexington, KY in February 2025. Mr. Zylstra motioned, Ms. Wright seconded, and the motion carried.

Update from Karen Franklin, NASW Executive Director – Ms. Franklin announced that the new program director Lauren Lee started in December. The chapter is in transition at the chapter level as the interim program coordinator is out on maternity leave.

The meeting adjourned at 3:54pm CT.